

Action
ER 86-0640x

Office of Legislative Liaison
Routing Slip

TO:	ACTION	INFO
1. ~~DXO~~ COCA		X
2. ~~EXO~~ EXO/OCA		X
3. Admin Officer		
4. Liaison	X	
5. Legislation		X
6. Ch/Liaison		X
7. DCh/Liaison		X
8.		
9.		
10.		

SUSPENSE 27 Feb 1986
Date

Action Officer:

Remarks:

BC / 19 Feb 1987
Name/Date

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA		X		
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC		X		
11	IG				
12	Compt		X		
13	D/OLL	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	D/Security		X		
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		27 FEB 86			
		Date			

Remarks TO #13:
Although no response is called for in this letter, please consult with DCI/DDCI whether we choose to make any reclama. Hamilton is trying to be helpful, but his legalistic approach does not seem to be what we should desire.

[Redacted Signature]

Executive Secretary
19 FEB 86
Date

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Executive Registry

86- 0640X

February 13, 1986

Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

Thank you for your letter of December 24, 1985 detailing your concerns over recent requests from other committees of the House.

I agree with you that the inquiries of other committees of the House can create problems for your Agency in protecting sensitive intelligence information. Further, you are correct that the purpose of establishing the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence was to centralize Congressional responsibility for intelligence oversight in one committee devoted to that purpose. However, neither the House Rules nor Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947 establish exclusive jurisdiction over intelligence matters in the Intelligence Committee. Moreover, the formal processes of resolving jurisdictional disputes within the House are focused on the consideration of legislation or other matters actually before the House itself. The House indirectly affirms jurisdiction in cases where it cites individuals for contempt of Congress, but such cases are rare and to be avoided if at all possible.

Because there are few formal processes for resolving jurisdictional problems, informal methods most often resolve conflicts over jurisdictional issues. The Committee stands willing to assist, as it has in the past, in resolving problems between intelligence agencies and other committees of the House, but it is most likely to be effective when drawn into the process at the request of the other committee. Indeed, the Committee has an obligation under the Rules of the House to keep other committees of the House informed of matters which require their attention and to respond to requests from Members and other committees for information in the possession of this Committee.

I appreciate your drawing the attention of the Committee to the requests detailed in your letter. Recently, the Department of Defense brought a similar matter to the attention of the Committee. I have told Defense officials we will assist where possible to ensure that other committees receive intelligence information which they need for the conduct of their

-2-

oversight duties but that the Committee's Rules require determinations on such matters to be made on a case-by-case basis with consultation as necessary with appropriate intelligence officials. I repeat that pledge to you. I am hopeful that the Committee can contribute to sensible and satisfactory solutions to problems that may arise from a reluctance by intelligence agencies to provide sensitive intelligence information to other committees of the Congress.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman